

Leon's Health Work Was State's First

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Dr. Graves filled the first post of county health officer from 1931 to 1944 and was succeeded by Dr. Paul Coughlin 1944-46, Dr. Bruce Underwood 1946-48, Dr. H. A. Sauberli 1948 - 49, Dr. J. M. Bistowish 1949-1964, and from late 1964, Dr. Blich.

Records of less than 30 years ago show major health problems of that day involved malaria, hookworm, tuberculosis, scarlet fever, and pneumonia. Pellagra, typhoid and typhus still claimed lives. More mothers died of childbirth in Florida than in any other state. The county had some 70 midwives when the present Health Department building was opened.

The 1939 report related that the "beautiful new health department building will be completed in a few months . . . for nine years we have worked in crowded quarters, uncomfortable in both winter and summer. New clinics can be started."

The Health Department today is staffed by some 44 people with three divisions being administered: clinics and nursing, sanitation, and mental health.

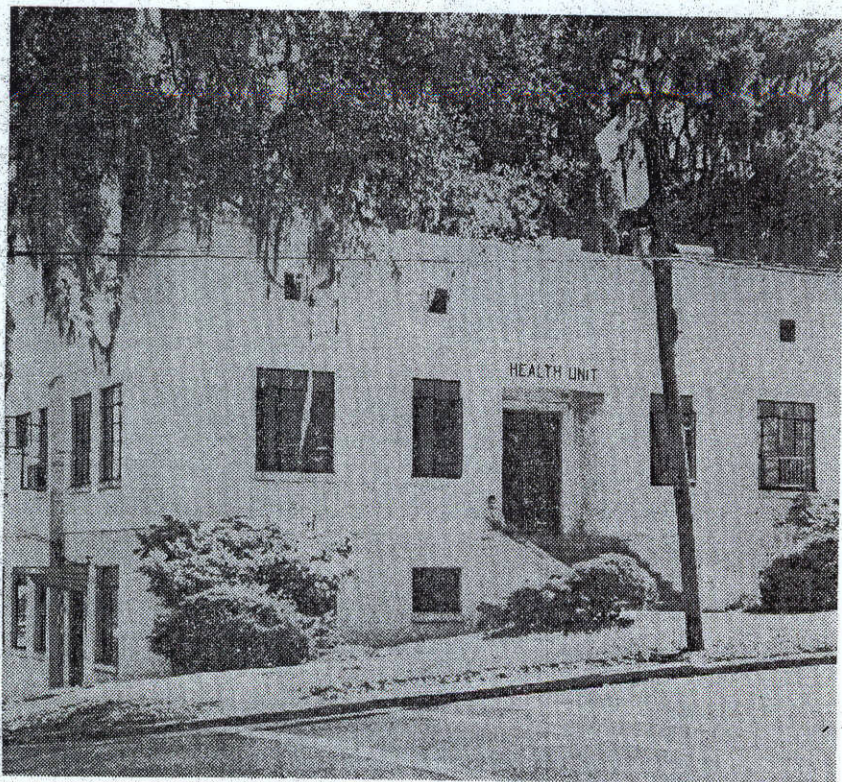
The clinics and nursing division, with a director, clerk and staff of 10, operates

clinics and other activities in immunization, venereal disease control, planned parenthood, maternity care, Tuberculosis control, school health, child health, student nurse training and visiting nurse service.

In the sanitation division a chief, five sanitarians and four other staff people carry out food, water, septic tank and swimming pool inspections; mosquito, rabies and typhus control; radiological contamination watch, and restaurant and lunch room inspections.

A staff of 11 in the mental health division serves Leon and nine other counties in child and parent counseling service, psychological testing, marriage counseling, psychiatric evaluation, graduate student training and psychiatric consultation service.

Dr. Blich reports that the work load in the clinics has increased greatly over the years, due not only to increase in population but also to institution of many new programs such as tuberculosis and venereal disease control, cancer detection, planned parenthood clinics and school immunization. The daily clinic load ranges from 150 to 200 patients.



Old Agency Building Is Left Behind
... Dr. Clifford Blich director (above)